

# Fiscal Year 2016 4TH QUARTER/ANNUAL REPORT

## CLEARWATER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Program Information & Mission

The Clearwater County Economic Development (CCED) Council is a locally driven, sponsored and self directed team working in partnership with the Idaho Department of Commerce. Economic development is a process that influences growth of the economy to enhance the wellbeing of a community.

*The CCED Council works for the benefit of existing, start-up and new businesses by:*

- *Facilitating proactive partnerships*
- *Leveraging available resource*

### Board of Directors

**Chairman Joe Pippenger**, Panhandle Power Wash; **Vice Chair Don Ebert**, County Commission; **Secretary Monica Jones**, ID Dept. of Labor Orofino office; and Members: **Christine Frei**, Clearwater Economic Development District; **Don Gardner**, City of Orofino; **Mike Cook**, Avista Utilities; **Tammy Carey**, 21 Price Right; and Ex Officio ID Department of Commerce

The **Fiscal Agent City of Orofino**

**Sponsors in Fiscal Year 2016: 51% State; 41% Local Government; 8% Private Sector**

ID Dept. of Commerce

Clearwater County

City of Orofino

City of Elk River

City of Pierce

City of Weippe

AVISTA Corporation

Clearwater Power Company

Simmons NADL

Nightforce Optics

Clearwater RC&D Council, Inc.

Pierce Mtn GEM Team

Support 4 Business

ID Dept. of Labor

Valley Motor Parts

Mary Ann's Groceries

CMS Manufacturing

Clearwater Economic Development Assoc.

Orofino Chamber of Commerce

Panhandle Power Wash

Walrath Insurance

Riverview Construction

Window on the Clearwater

Studio 205

Edward Jones

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## Business Retention—Expansion (BRE)

Supporting the existing businesses in Clearwater County is the CCED Council's highest priority.

The BRE program involves one on one site visits between our staff and businesses; sharing resource information with businesses that will help address a need or issue; bringing in workshops and informational seminars about identified issues to the local community; acting as a liaison for businesses; and, promoting business partnerships to keep local dollars local.

***Over the past year CCEDC worked with twenty-seven (27) unique businesses throughout the County.***

***Business expansions added 11 new jobs in the last year.***

Tough economic times often lead people to find innovative ways to stay in the community they love and want to live in. The CCED team is proud to help folks grow ideas into businesses.

## Fostering Entrepreneurship

Reducing the out migration of the workforce in Clearwater County is something the CCED Council is striving for. In partnership with the Small Business Development Center, Clearwater Economic Development Association and University of Idaho workshops and one-on-one consulting for start ups are offered throughout the County.

***Over the past year CCEDC worked one on one with twelve (12) individuals; of which five (5) have started new businesses, employing thirteen (13) persons.***

## Infrastructure Development

Connecting our products and services to the world and having the capacity to build business enterprise is key to CCEDC's diversification efforts. In addition implementing cost savings, public safety and community wellbeing measures bolsters our livability indexes making us attractive to the workforce of the future. Project we're involved with include:

- *Expanding broadband and mobile telecommunication capacities*
  - ⇒ *Assisted Inland Cellular submit a USDA-RUS Community Connect Grant, \$ 355,990 to deploy broadband in Pierce*
  - ⇒ *Facilitating permitting and site development to support Inland Cellular mobile expansion in Pierce and Weippe*
- *Awarded \$ 4,350 USDA Rural Business Development Grant to sponsor broadband adoption workshops in Elk River, Orofino and Pierce/Weippe*
- *Awarded \$ 12,500 USDA Rural Business Development Grant to facilitate expansion of A to Z Counselling, who is expected to add 6 professional jobs*
- *Awarded \$ 140,000 USFS funds, \$ 40,000 ID GEM Grant funds and applied for \$ 5,000 NW Farm Credit Services Grant program to implement a Biomass conversion project at the Pierce Community Center as a cost savings effort for the Pierce Recreation District of an expected \$ 15,000 per year*
- *Fire house construction in Elk River*

## Business Recruitment

Responding to leads on businesses interested in Idaho, through partnerships with ID Commerce & Labor and other economic development groups throughout the state is a role the CCED Council staff performs. Preparing site and business information packets; hosting site tours and developing marketing materials to promote our assets requires good relationships with local realtors, landowners and an awareness of community infrastructure capacity. Often leads come with tight deadlines and specific criteria.

*Over the past year our staff responded to nine (9) leads. To date one (1) has broken ground and is expected to add 20 new jobs.*

### A glimpse at Available Buildings



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## Infrastructure continued

- *Assisted the Idaho Youth Challenge Foundation on securing \$ 11,922 in grant funds to evaluate the feasibility of converting the IDYCA Pierce facility from electricity to wood based fuel source for heat*
- *Facilitate an onsite evaluation by EPA and ID DEQ on a contaminated site near Orofino to kick start efforts for redevelopment*
- *Supporting the Clearwater Historical Society secure funding to expand the museum*
- *Supporting efforts in Elk River to construct a Fire/EMS facility*
- *Facilitated the Center for Disease Control, Orofino Activity Connection Planning process*

## CLEARWATER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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*Fostering a thriving business climate by facilitating proactive partnerships and leveraging available resources for the benefit of existing, start-up and new businesses in Clearwater County.*

**We're on the Web**

**[www.clearwatercounty.org/departments/economic\\_development](http://www.clearwatercounty.org/departments/economic_development)**

### Some County Statistics

*Data Source: ID Dept. of Labor—LMI Clearwater County Workforce Trends (March 2016)*

**Population:** Clearwater County's population has been on a downward trend; in 2010 the population was 8,761 in 2014 the County population reported is 8,562.

**Available Civilian Labor Force** (Data Source: ID Dept. of Labor

2005 3,388    2010: 3,422    2014: 3,110    2016: 3,093

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2014

